



**For Immediate Release
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First WNV Positive Horse Detected in Nevada

Reno, May 19, 2006 – This week the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA) Animal & Food Safety Laboratory detected Nevada's first 2006 positive sample for West Nile Virus (WNV) from a 20 year old horse in Sparks. The horse was displaying classic symptoms of WNV and a veterinarian was consulted. The veterinarian took a blood sample, submitted it to NDOA and it was positive for WNV. The horse had no travel history outside the Truckee Meadows and was euthanized.

Mosquito pools were gathered from the area where the horse was boarded and when tested at NDOA's Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory they were negative.

"West Nile Virus is here and it has come a little early. That means it is past time to vaccinate your horses," said Dr. Michael Poulos, Nevada's new State Veterinarian. "If you haven't vaccinated your horses yet you'd better get right on it," added Poulos. He recommends all horses, mules and donkeys are vaccinated. Consult your equine veterinarian for his or her recommendations on age limits and frequency and also consult them for their recommendations for type of vaccine. You have a choice of a killed single or multivalent vaccine and a recombinant vaccine.

"The bottom line is, West Nile Virus is in Nevada," said Dr. Bradford Lee, State Health Officer. "Everyone needs to practice preventive measures such as, when outdoors, use insect repellent containing DEET, wear pants, long-sleeve shirts and socks, remove standing water from around your house and make sure the screens on your doors and windows fit properly. While people 50 years of age or older most commonly develop serious symptoms of West Nile Virus, everyone is susceptible and should take special care to avoid mosquito bites."

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